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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,725	12/28/2000	James S. Burns	042390.P10120	6772

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EXAMINER

LI, AIMEE J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2183

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/749,725		BURNS ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Aimee J. Li		2183	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10-15,17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10-15,17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17, and 18 have been examined. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 15 have been amended as per Applicant's request.

Papers Submitted

2. It is hereby acknowledged that the following papers have been received and placed of record in the file: Power of Attorney as received 23 January 2006; RCE as received on 07 April 2006; Extension as received on 07 April 2006; and Amendment as received on 07 April 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirata et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,430,851.
5. In regard to claim 1, Hirata et al. disclose a processor (col. 4, line 50), comprising:
- a. A plurality of pipelined functional units for executing instructions (Fig. 3, elements 16-18);
 - b. A scheduler (Fig. 4, instruction setup units 34 and instruction schedule unit 35 [col. 9, lines 36-45]), coupled to the plurality of functional units (fig. 4, 16-18),
 - c. Wherein the scheduler is programmed to, in a first stage (fig. 4, instruction setup units 34 comprise of the first stage), map each of at least two separate instruction groups to at least a portion of the functional units independently of each other

(independent instruction setup units for each instruction stream [col. 5, lines 55-59] map instructions to functional units by setting a type tag T [col. 6, lines 19-20, 25-27]), and based at least in part on functional unit availability and instruction dependencies (signal R, col. 6, lines 54-56), perform a merging (col. 6, lines 11-14, instruction schedule unit merges the instructions from each of the instruction groups) and remapping of the at least two separate instruction groups to the at least a portion of the functional units (col. 8, lines 48-56, instruction schedule unit remaps the instructions based on resource conflicts) in a second stage (fig. 4, instruction schedule unit 35 comprises of a second stage)

6. In regard to claim 2, Hirata et al. further disclose that the scheduler is programmed to deliver the instruction to the portion of functional units following merging and remapping (instructions are sent to the functional units from the instruction schedule unit 35 which is responsible for the merging and remapping, fig. 4 and col. 8, 51-56).
7. In regard to claim 4, Hirata et al. further disclose that at least a portion of the functional units execute instructions from the at least two instruction groups (col. 5, 40-44; col. 6, 25-34).
8. In regard to claim 5, Hirata et al. further disclose that the instruction groups (instruction streams) follow a simultaneous multi-threading structure (col. 2, lines 65-68).
9. In regard to claim 6, Hirata et al. further disclose that the instruction groups are prioritized to prevent pipeline failures (resulting from contention) during execution of instructions (col. 7, 65-68; col. 8, 1-10).

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10. In regard to claims 7 and 13, Hirata et al. disclose a method of dispersing instructions (instruction schedule unit distributes instructions to the functional units, col. 6, lines 11-14) to be executed by a processor (col. 4, line 50), comprising:

- a. In a first stage (instruction setup unit 34), map (instruction setup units [fig. 4, 34] map instructions to functional units by setting a type tag T [col. 6, lines 19-20, 25-27]) each of at least two separate instruction groups (instruction streams, col. 5, lines 55-59) to at least a portion of functional units independently of each other (instruction setup unit 34); and
- b. Based at least in part on functional unit availability and instruction dependencies (signal R, col. 6, lines 54-56), perform a merging (col. 6, lines 11-14, instruction schedule unit merges the instructions from each of the instruction groups) and remapping (col. 8, lines 48-56, instruction schedule unit remaps the instructions based on resource conflicts) of the at least two separate instruction groups to the at least a portion of functional units (col. 9, lines 46-64: the instruction schedule unit 35 receives an instruction subgroup of up to 2 instructions from the instruction stream being fetched) in a second stage (instruction schedule unit 15).

11. In regard to claims 8 and 14, Hirata et al. further disclose the step of delivering the instructions to portions of functional units following merging and remapping (instructions are sent to the functional units from the instruction schedule unit which is responsible for the merging and remapping, fig. 4 and col. 8, 51-56).

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12. In regard to claims 10 and 15, Hirata et al. further disclose at least a portion of the functional units execute instructions from the at least two instruction groups (col. 5, 40-44; col. 6, 25-34).

13. In regard to claims 11 and 17, Hirata et al. further disclose that the instruction groups (instruction streams) follow a simultaneous multi-threading structure (col. 2, lines 65-68).

14. In regard to claims 12 and 18, Hirata et al. further disclose that the instruction groups are prioritized to prevent pipeline failures (resulting from contention) during execution of instructions (col. 7, 65-68; col. 8, 1-10).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed 07 April 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

16. Applicant argues in essence on pages 5-6

Applicant, however, submits that Hirata does not teach performing mapping of instruction groups to functional units by one stage and merging/remapping of instruction groups to functional units by another stage...Hirata's Instruction Setup Unit does not perform any sort of instruction mapping to functional units, but instead only performs dependency analysis, decoding, and instruction fetching...

17. This has not been found persuasive. Hirata describes in column 6, lines 3-7 that the decode unit decides the instructions and outputs the instruction to the schedule unit "if it [the instruction] should be executed in the function execution units". This means that the decode units need to make a preliminary determination if the execution units are needed, e.g. a mapping to the entire set of functional units. Hirata then describes in column 6, lines 11-14 and 19-34 the

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scheduler performs another mapping, e.g. remapping, of the instructions to a specific functional unit within the group of functional units. Hirata describes in column 14, line 49 to column 15, line 3 and column 16, line 57 to column 17, line 10 having instructions held in a stand-by area by the scheduler based upon dependencies and in column 44, lines 11-19 that instructions are only issued to a functional unit by the scheduler when the functional unit is available. Hirata also describes in column 5, lines 5-9 and 61-64 and column 6, lines 11-14 that the scheduler merges the instructions streams, so they are all executed together in the functional units. Therefore, Hirata performs a mapping of the instruction groups in the decide unit and then the scheduler merges and remaps the instructions based upon functional unit availability and resource dependencies.

18. Also, Hirata discloses in column 9, lines 8-33 that there are other embodiments in which the functional units are homogeneous and shows this in Figure 9 with two functional units 16. The system then first maps an instruction with the decoder to the functional units and the scheduler chooses the functional unit based on resource dependencies and availability of the functional unit. In the case, of an integer instruction that is to be executed in functional unit 16, the decoder would determine that a functional unit is needed and the scheduler would send the instruction to the next available integer functional unit 16 after the resource dependencies are resolved.

Conclusion

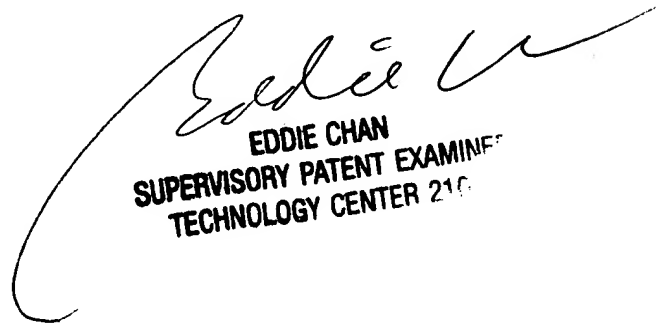
19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aimee J. Li whose telephone number is (571) 272-4169. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 7:00am-4:30pm.

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20. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Chan can be reached on (571) 272-4162. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

21. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AJL
Aimee J. Li
13 June 2006



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